

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An annotation system that associates annotations with at least one object, the annotation system comprising:

a viewing device for viewing the at least one object, the viewing device being distinct from an annotation device;

a search circuit that locates the at least one object to be annotated and provides an object identifier that corresponds to the at least one object;

the annotation device allowing a user to make at least one annotation independently from the at least one object, the annotation device comprising:

an input device that inputs the at least one annotation;

an annotation linking circuit that establishes a link associating the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object;

a database that stores the object identifier, the at least one annotation and the link; and

a synchronize circuit that associates the at least one annotation with the at least one portion of the object based on the link and the object identifier, ; and

wherein the user makes annotation using the annotation device while viewing the at least one object using the distinct viewing device, and upon synchronization by the synchronize circuit, the at least one annotation is transferred to the at least one object.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the annotation linking circuit establishes the link to the at least one portion based on at least one of a graphical technique and a textual technique.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the graphical technique associates the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the at least one object based on selection of at least one portion of a graphical icon that is a visual surrogate of the at least one object.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the textual technique comprises associating the at least one annotation and at least one of a word, phrase or a portion of text.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the textual technique is based on a phrase completion technique.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the search circuit is located in at least one of the annotation device, a personal computer and a networked search engine.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the search circuit receives at least one of the object identifier and one or more key words corresponding to the object to be annotated.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an annotation database that stores the at least one annotation and the object identifier for the at least one object.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the annotation database is located on a distributed network.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the annotation database stores at least one annotation previously associated with the at least one object.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one object is at least one of a media type object, a device type object, a location type object and a digital document.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the annotation device is a portable ~~device~~personal digital assistant, which can be decoupled from the object when the annotation is made.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the object identifier is collocated with the at least one object.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for associating annotations with at least one object comprising:

searching for the at least one object to annotate;

obtaining an object identifier for the at least one object;

generating at least one annotation using an annotation device and an input device that is distinct from the annotation device, while displaying the at least one object with a viewing device that is distinct from the annotation device;

establishing a link associating the at least one annotation with the object;

transferring the at least one annotation to the at least one object by associating the at least one annotation with the at least one object based on the link and the at least one object identifier.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein associating at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object is based on at least one of a graphical technique and a textual technique.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the graphical technique associates the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the at least one object based on selection of at least one portion of a graphical icon that is a visual surrogate of the at least one object.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the textual technique comprises associating the at least one annotation and at least one of a word, phrase or a portion of text.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the textual technique is based on a phrase completion technique.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising associating the object identifier and the at least one object.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising retrieving supplemental information associated with the at least one object.

21. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising developing a digital surrogate of the at least one object.

22. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising retrieving at least one previous annotation associated with the at least one object.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising annotating the at least one of the at least one previous annotation object while the annotation device is decoupled from the object.

24. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein searching for the at least one object comprises:

entering at least one of a description of the object and the object identifier; and
searching at least one of a networked search engine, a personal computer and a distributed network.

25. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one object is at least one of a media type object, a device type object, a location type object and a digital document.

26. (Previously Presented) An information storage media that stores a control program for associating annotations with at least one object, the control program including instructions for:

searching for the at least one object to annotate;
obtaining an object identifier for the at least one object;

generating at least one annotation using an annotation device and an input device while displaying the at least one object and the at least one annotation with a viewing device that is distinct from the annotation device;

establishing a link associating the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object; and

transferring the at least one annotation to the at least one object by associating the at least one annotation with the at least one object based on the link and the at least one object identifier.

27. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 26 wherein the instructions for associating at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object are based on at least one of a graphical technique and a textual technique.

28. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 27, wherein the graphical technique associates the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the at least one object based on selection of at least one portion of a graphical icon that is a visual surrogate of the at least one object.

29. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 27, wherein the textual technique comprises associating the at least one annotation and at least one of a word, phrase or a portion of text.

30. (Original) The information storage media of claim 29, wherein the textual technique is based on a phrase completion technique.

31. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 26, the control program further including instructions for associating the object identifier and the at least one object.

32. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 26, the control program further including instructions for retrieving supplemental information associated with the at least one object.

33. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 26, the control program further including instructions for developing a digital surrogate of the at least one object.

34. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 26, the control program further including instructions for retrieving at least one previous annotation associated with the at least one object.

35. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 34, the control program further including instructions for annotating at least one of the at least one previous annotation.

36. (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 26, the instructions for searching for the at least one object further include instructions for:
specifying at least one of a description of the object and the object identifier; and
searching at least one of a networked search engine, a personal computer and a distributed network.

37. (Original) The information storage media of claim 26, wherein the at least one object is at least one of a media type object, a device type object, a location type object and a digital document.